

50 Years of History

Hong Kong, China

Name of organisation: Manipulative Therapy Specialty Group, Hong Kong Physiotherapy Association

Year organisation started: 1989

Member of IFOMPT since: 1990

Key influencers through the years: Dr Arran Leung made major contributions to the conception and development of Manipulative Physiotherapy education in Hong Kong. He was the first Hong Kong physiotherapist to pursue advancement in manual therapy in South Australia with Geoff Maitland in the 1970s. Following his training, he initiated post-graduate training in Manipulative Physiotherapy in Hong Kong. The first post-graduate Manipulative Therapy training program in Spinal Manipulation and Peripheral Manipulation was launched by the Hong Kong Polytechnic (The Predecessor of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University) in 1986 & 1988 respectively. Arran was the founding program leader of both courses. The graduates from both courses then created the climate for the formation of the Manipulative Therapy Specialty Group (MTSG). The MTSG established in 1989 as a specialty group of the Hong Kong Physiotherapy Association. Arran Leung was the first chair of the Group. Under his guidance, the two programs were combined, restructured, upgraded and launched as MSc in Manipulative Physiotherapy program in 2000. He was the first leader of this Master program.

Development over the years: The Manipulative Physiotherapy training was first offered as “Post-graduate Certificate in Spinal / Peripheral Manipulative Physiotherapy” and gradually evolved into a Master level training programme. Over the years, more than 500 physiotherapists completed these training programs in Hong Kong (there are about 4500 registered physiotherapists in Hong Kong).

Major changes or challenges in the last 50 years:

The Hong Kong Physiotherapy Association just celebrated its 60th Anniversary last year. The Physiotherapy profession and its training have evolved in a similar pattern to other developed countries.

Current status and challenges: With the increased number of graduates from the undergraduate programs (more than 300 each year), the demand for Manipulative Physiotherapy training increases as well. However, there is only one IFOMPT validated program with admission of 30 students every 2 years. Clearly, development of new programs is urgently needed.

Future of the organisation: Urgent need for the development of new postgraduate programs to meet demands.
